

- FACT SHEET -

**PROPOSED OPTIMIZATION STUDY FOR GROUNDWATER AT THE
ARMY CREEK LANDFILL AND VICINITY**

BACKGROUND

- Groundwater recovery operations were initiated in 1973, and have been operated continuously to protect the Llangollen Well Field.
- The recovered groundwater contains only trace levels of organic chemicals.
- It appears that the concentrations of most organic chemicals in the groundwater are naturally reduced prior to reaching the recovery wells.

OPTIMIZATION STUDY

- A one-year study has been conditionally approved by the USEPA to test a reconfiguration of pumping operations, focusing pumping where contaminant concentrations are still elevated, while temporarily suspending the pumping of groundwater from the existing recovery system.
- Groundwater studies indicate that the highest concentrations of BCEE and other contaminants are in an area northeast of the existing recovery-well network.
- A new recovery well has been constructed to remove groundwater from this area, which will be discharged directly to the County sewer system, in compliance with wastewater treatment plant requirements.
- The new recovery well will remove substantially more contamination than the present system, while pumping only a small fraction of the nearly 1 million-gallons-per-day currently pumped.
- Suspension of pumping from the existing network will result in the elimination of surface-water discharge of the treatment system effluent to Army Creek, while conserving the groundwater resource for future public use.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

- Extensive testing and site inspections will be done to evaluate potential impacts of rising water levels within the landfills and changes in groundwater flow patterns as a result of decreasing the rate of groundwater pumping during suspension of the existing network.
- The existing system will be maintained so that it may be restarted on very short notice should monitoring results indicate a need.
- Ultimate protection to the public is provided by the carbon treatment system in place and operational at the Llangollen Well Field.